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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/945,094	08/30/2001	Xuemei Zhang	10992481-1	3160

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HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY

Intellectual Property Administration

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EXAMINER

TRAN, NHAN T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2615

DATE MAILED: 06/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action

Application No.

09/945,094

Applicant(s)

ZHANG, XUEMEI

Examiner

Nhan T. Tran

Art Unit

2615

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 26 May 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection. ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
- (a) ☒ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
- (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
- (c) ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
- (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: See Continuation Sheet.

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. ☒ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☒ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. ☒ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☐ will not be entered or b) ☒ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is ~~is~~ (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: _____.

Claim(s) rejected: 1-3, 5, 7-10, 14, 18-23 & 26-29.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: 24 and 25.

8. ☐ The drawing correction filed on _____ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
10. ☐ Other: _____.

Continuation of 2. NOTE: Newly added claims 24 and 25 will not be entered because the claims recite a new limitation "noise balancing terms are the same for all pixels in the image" which was not claimed previously.

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: The Applicant's arguments with respect to independent claim 1 are narrower than what required in the claim. Specifically, the Applicant argues that an offset is added to scale factors. However, the claim does not require any offset to be added into the scale factors. Moreover, the Applicant asserts "[t]he color balancing terms of claim 1 are not actually noise. Rather, they are fixed values added to offset the effect of noise in calculating the scale factors." Such "the color balancing terms" are clearly different from "noise balancing terms" as claimed. Therefore, the Applicant's arguments are vague since they are not corresponding to what actually claimed.

The Applicant also asserts that Hirose provides no reason, motivation or incentive to modify Wagensohn's scale factors. In response, the Examiner has already provided the motivation to add the noise balancing terms into color channels by way of scale factors to enhance the color tone and sharpness of the image in view of the teaching of Hirose (Final Office Action, pages 5 & 6).

Regarding currently amended claim 5, the claim will be rejected as were claims 4 & 5.

Regarding currently amended claims 7-10, the claims will be rejected as were claims 7-10.

Regarding newly added claims 26-29, the claims will be rejected as were claims 7 & 9.



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